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## Karim A. A. Khan QC

Year of Call: 1992

Year of Silk: 2011

### LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/pub/karim-a-a-khan-9c/49/b86/1a2>

### Awards



### Experience

On 16 June 2021 Karim Khan was sworn in for a nine year term as Chief Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Karim succeeds Gambian Judge Fatou Bensouda.

**NO EMAILS OR COMMUNICATIONS TO KARIM AS ICC PROSECUTOR SHOULD BE SENT TO CHAMBERS OR TO HIS CHAMBERS EMAIL ADDRESS. Any ICC related emails should be sent to the Office of the Prosecutor [Office.OftheProsecutor@icc-cpi.int](mailto:Office.OftheProsecutor@icc-cpi.int). Karim will not be responding to any sent via Chambers / via his Chambers' email.**

Karim specialises in all areas of public international law, international criminal and human rights law, sports law, international arbitration, extradition, media law and major commercial fraud cases. He acts for both states and individuals and victim groups. He previously worked as a Senior Crown Prosecutor, at the Law Commission of England & Wales, and in the Office of the Prosecutor at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

In 2018 the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, appointed Karim as the First Special Adviser and Head of the United Nations Team investigating international crimes committed by ISIL / Da'esh i (UNITAD). UNITAD was established by way of unanimous Security Council Resolution 2379 (2017). See <https://www.unitad.un.org>

## **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**

In 2003 Karim was instructed to provide legal advice in the ICJ matter of Liberia v Sierra Leone (concerning the arrest warrant against Charles Ghankay Taylor, Former President of Liberia).

In 2015, Karim was instructed by the Government of Kenya in the ongoing ICJ case of Somalia v Kenya (maritime delimitation in the Indian ocean).

International Prosecution: United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR):

From 1997-2000, Karim was a Legal Advisor in the Office of the Prosecutor in the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR).

## **INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE**

### **INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)**

#### **Kenya**

Karim is currently instructed as Lead Defence Counsel to the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. William Ruto, who faces charges before the International Criminal Court (ICC) relating to the post-election violence in Kenya in 2007-2008. Karim leads a team of fifteen, including five international counsel (including another Queen's counsel), five junior lawyers (international and local) and case management and support staff.

In January 2011, Karim was instructed as Lead Counsel to represent Ambassador Francis K. Muthaura, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Public Service of Kenya before the ICC in relation to the post-election violence in 2007-2008. Karim led a team of fifteen including senior international and Kenyan lawyers, investigators, analysts and case managers. After much litigation, all charges were withdrawn by the Prosecution on the eve of trial in March 2013. This was the first time the Prosecutor of the ICC has withdrawn charges in a case confirmed.

#### **Democratic Republic of Congo/ Central Africa Republic**

In November 2008, Karim was appointed co-lead counsel in one of the first cases before the ICC, Prosecutor v Jean Pierra Bemba Gombo (Former Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of Congo for crimes allegedly committed in the Central African Republic). Karim acted at the confirmation

stage of proceedings which saw the prosecution fail in its bid to prefer charges under Article 25 of the Rome Statute. Instead, the Pre-Trial Chamber confirmed charges under a command theory of responsibility (Article 28).

### **Sudan**

Between 2008 – 2010, Karim was engaged as Lead Counsel before the ICC representing the Sudanese rebel leader, Bahar Idriss Abu Garda, the first ICC suspect to voluntarily surrender to the jurisdiction of the Court. The charges related to an alleged attack on a military garrison at Haskanita in Darfur which was manned by AU personnel, alleged to be peacekeepers. After a contested confirmation hearing, where viva voce evidence was heard, the Defence successfully argued that no charges should be confirmed. This was the first time a case had failed to be confirmed at the ICC. The Prosecution application for leave to appeal the non-confirmation of charges was dismissed.

In March 2010, Karim was also instructed before the ICC for two additional Dafuri rebels, Abdallah Banda and Saleh Jerbo, who voluntarily appeared before the Court in June 2010.

### **International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)**

In 2003, Karim was appointed defence counsel in the ICTY case of Prosecutor v Limaj charged with crimes against humanity. Limaj was the first commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) tried by the ICTY. Limaj was acquitted on all counts after full trial and, on his return to Kosovo, proceeded to be elected to the Kosovo Assembly and be appointed Minister for Transport and Communication. The subsequent prosecution appeal against the acquittals was dismissed in Nov. 2005.

In 2004, the Registry of the ICTY also appointed Karim Independent Counsel to the Former Chief of the Bosnia armed forces in the case of Prosecutor v (General) Sefer Halilovic (Halilovic Appeal to President of ICTY allowed).

Karim additionally acts as Defence counsel in appeal proceedings (and previously at trial) in Prosecutor v Prlic et al. (for accused Bruno Stojic) before the ICTY. The Prlic et al case was the longest and most voluminous ICTY case and involved 6 co-accused charged with crimes against humanity.

In May 2008, Karim was instructed to represent the Minister of Culture of Kosovo (Prosecutor v Haraqija) charged with contempt before the ICTY in relation to allegations of witness intimidation. (Astrid Haraqija was acquitted on all counts on

appeal).

In December 2008, Karim was appointed lead counsel to Florence Hartmann, the Former Le Monde journalist and Former Chief spokesperson to Carla del Ponte, the Chief Prosecutor of the ICTY and ICTR. Ms Hartmann is the first (and only) staff member of the ICTY or ICTR charged with contempt of court.

### **Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL)**

In 2004, Karim acted as Defence counsel in the Case of Prosecutor v Alex Brima before the Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL).

Between April 2006 – June 2007 he was Lead Defence counsel in Prosecutor v Charles Ghankay Taylor before the SCSL. In this capacity, Karim led a team of 5 other lawyers (including legal assistants) investigating crimes in Sierra Leone. The nature of this case required Karim, with the help of the SCSL Defence office, to set up offices in the Hague, Freetown and Monrovia in order to create a platform for effective investigations.

### **United Nations Transitional Authority for East Timor (UNTAET)**

In 2001, Karim was instructed as lead defence counsel before the Special Panel for Serious Crimes in East Timor whilst it was under United Nations administration (UNTAET). In this capacity he represented Cancio Lopez de Carvalho, head of the Mahidi Militia in relation to allegations arising out of the 1999 post referendum violence. Numerous missions to Dili in East Timor and Kupang (West Timor / Indonesia) and high level discussions at heads of state and senior United Nations level conducted.

### **Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL)**

Karim also acts as Lead Defence Counsel to Al Jadeed TV and Ms. Karma Khayat in relation to charges of contempt of court before the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL). This case represents the first time that a corporation has been charged before an international criminal or hybrid court. Karim led a team of two senior international lawyers (including another Queen's counsel) and two other lawyers. After full trial Al Jaded television was acquitted in 2015 on all counts. Ms. Karma Khayat was also acquitted on the most serious count and a fine imposed in relation to the remaining (lesser) offence. On 8 March 2016, the Appeals Panel of the STL dismissed the Prosecution appeal and upheld the acquittals for Al Jaded. In addition, the one conviction entered against Karma Khayat at trial was overturned and substituted with a verdict of "not

guilty". The complete acquittals on all counts, for both accused, represents the first completed trial and appeal heard by the STL.

### **Libya**

Karim is also instructed as international counsel representing the former Prime Minister of Libya, Dr. Baghdadi Al-Mahmoudi, who is charged before the courts of Libya with various offenses. Dr. Baghdadi was the Prime Minister of Libya during the regime of Col. Gadaffi. Karim has visited Tunisia and visited the client whilst he was detained in Tunisia with a view to providing legal advice. After extradition to Libya, a mission was also conducted to Tripoli, Libya in a bid to get access to the client.

### **European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX)**

Between 2010 and 2012, Karim was appointed Lead Counsel to Fatmir Limaj in relation to charges of war crimes allegedly committed in Kosovo in 1999 before the EULEX (hybrid) court system in a trial comprising UK, American and Kosovan judges. At the end of this trial, Fatmir Limaj was acquitted on all counts of war crimes on 2 April 2012. The Supreme Court of Kosovo ordered a re-trial and Karim acted as lead counsel in that case as well which ended, for the second time, in a full acquittal on all counts. Karim also advised in relation to allegations of corruption in public office in relation to a separate case before EULEX.

## **VICTIMS REPRESENTATION**

### **Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)**

In 2009, Karim was instructed as lead counsel to the largest group of civil parties (victims) in the first case before the Extraordinary Courts of the Chambers of Cambodia (Prosecutor v Kaing Geuk Eav, alias Duch). Karim led an international team comprising Swiss, French, American and Cambodia lawyers. Duch was successfully prosecuted and Karim acted as Lead Counsel for the victims in the appeal that followed.

### **Cham community of Albania**

Karim also leads a team, instructed by the Cham and Albanian communities in Albania, in relation to remedies under the European Convention on Human Rights and other international instruments with regards to their expulsion from Greece at the end of World War Two, and the expropriation of property and denial of rights which followed.

## **NGO's**

Karim is the Founding Director of the Global Victims Initiative (June 2012), which aims to provide redress and advice to victims of international crimes throughout the globe.

Karim is also a Founder Director of the Peace and Justice Initiative (Hague-based NGO focused on effective implementation of the ICC Rome Statute at the national level). <http://www.peaceandjusticeinitiative.org/>

### **Sports law**

Karim has been legal adviser to the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) and, in this capacity, has redrafted the constitution of the AHF in accordance with IOC standards. He has attended AHF meetings in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Myanmar, Colombo (Sri Lanka) and has attended the FIH Headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland) on numerous occasions for the purposes of giving advice.

### **Teaching/Lecturing**

Karim has lectured and taught extensively throughout the world including at the University of Tsinghua, China; University of Florence, Italy; University of Sarajevo; University of Utrecht; Northwestern law school, Chicago, USA; TMC Asser Institute, Den Haag, Netherlands; King's College, University of London; Oxford University; Sandhurst Military Academy, UK; the Advanced Officers Course of the Joint Service Command and Staff College, Watchfield, UK (2001-2010); National Police Training Centre, Bramshill; in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (workshop for the Judges of the ECCC); Beirut, Lebanon (Bar Council of England & Wales – Beirut Bar Association); Advanced Tertiary College, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as well at numerous international events including the Bar Leaders conference of the International Bar Association (2012), the IBA's ten year ICC anniversary events at the Peace Palace, the Hague and Arusha, Tanzania; the ICTR 20th Anniversary Conference in Arusha (2014); the IBA's Annual conference in Tokyo (2014); and the IBA's annual international criminal law conference, The Hague (2015).

### **Directories**

"In the area of international criminal law, Karim is the go-to lawyer. He is known for his advocacy in the courtroom both in content and in style. He ensures he has a very deep knowledge of not just the facts of an incident but of all aspects of a case, which in this field involves politics, culture and society. He is a frighteningly clever lawyer and a masterful advocate."

*Legal 500 (2021) Leading silk Ranked Tier 1, International Crime and Extradition*

“Extremely intelligent and an outstanding litigator”  
*Legal 500 (2019) Leading Silk, Ranked Tier 1, Crime and Extradition*

A “superb lawyer” and “frighteningly clever master strategist,” who has represented clients in international courts across the world. As a prosecutor for the ICTY and ICTR, he has vast experience of handling complex matters such as crimes against humanity, war crimes and contempt of court disputes. One market commentator says: “His ability to address and sum up the most complicated legal analysis in concise yet powerful words has become legendary.”

**Strengths:** “Has an unparalleled experience of high profile cases and has appeared in all the international criminal courts set up in the past 20 years. The amount of work he puts in for each of his cases is phenomenal and makes him such a feared adversary.” “He is eloquent and clients love him.”

**Recent work:** Represented the Deputy President of Kenya against charges of crimes against humanity before the ICC in relation to the post-election violence in Kenya in 2007-2008.  
*Chambers and Partners (2018)*

Ranked in “band 1” international criminal law and extradition.  
*Legal 500 (2017)*

“Noted for his dedication and passion for international criminal law, he has represented clients in international courts across the world. As a prosecutor for the ICTY and ICTR, he has vast experience of handling complex matters such as crimes against humanity, war crimes and contempt of court disputes.”

**Strengths:** “Incredibly hard-working, extremely difficult to fight, passionate about his work and exceptional on his feet.” “Always a gentleman and a tough advocate, he’s a superb lawyer who is doing a great job for his clients.”

**Recent work:** Has acted for opposition leaders in Sudan at the ICC, and has also represented the deputy president of Kenya before the ICC.

*Chambers and Partners (2017)*

‘He has represented governments and political leaders with great skill and diligence.’

*Legal 500 (2016)*

“Passionate silk who has significant experience of representing clients faced with charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes, including matters concerning attacks on UN bases. He is a formidable advocate who is recognised for his experience acting as a prosecutor for the ICTY.”

*Chambers and Partners (2016)*

“Strengths: ‘He is an experienced younger silk who is very able and very thorough. He has total confidence and self-assurance.’ ‘He is incredibly passionate, puts up a good fight and has a very good drafting style.’ ”

*Chambers and Partners (2016)*

“Karim Khan QC (Temple Garden Chambers) Has a strong reputation for handling international crime matters, and particular experience in cases involving war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Africa and Eastern Europe. Recent work: Defended the deputy president of Kenya, William Ruto, who was charged with crimes against humanity for his alleged role in violence following the 2007 national elections in Kenya.”

*Chambers and Partners (2015)*

## **Appointments**

- Bencher of Lincoln’s Inn
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitration
- Recorder of the Crown Court
- Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- Visiting Professor of international law and Human Rights at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.
- Honorary Lecturer, International Law, School of Law, University of Utrecht (2010-2011; 2012-2013);
- Member of the CBA’s working group on the ICC Act 2001;
- Past member of international justice sub-committee of the IRC of the Bar Council;
- Member of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Pro Bono Human Rights Panel;
- Included on Attorney-General’s panel of Prosecution Advocates (2001-2004);
- 2008, elected an individual member of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC);
- Member of the Executive Committee, Association of Defence Counsel of the ICTY (ADC) (2010 to 2011);
- Member of Disciplinary Council of the Association of Defence Counsel of the ICTY (ADC) (2007 to 10);
- Past Chair, Amicus Committee, of the ADC;
- Member of the ICTY Disciplinary Board (along with ICTY judiciary) (2009 -13);
- In 2010, Karim was also elected to the Disciplinary Appeals Board of the ICC (along with ICC judiciary 2012-2015).
- President of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA) 2017 - to date



## Education

- Barrister, Lincoln's Inn, London;
- LLB (Hons), A.K.C., (King's College, University of London);
- Inns of Court School of Law, London;
- Dip.Int.Rel (Nice), Advanced Diploma, International Human Rights (Abo Akademi, Turku, Finland);
- D Phil (candidate), Wolfson College, University of Oxford;
- Doctorate, honoris causa, University College FAMA, Pristina, Kosovo (2012);
- Doctorate, honoris causa, European University, Tirana, Albania.

## Memberships

Included on Defence counsel list (and list of victims counsel as applicable): ICC, ICTY, ICTR, SCSL, ECCC and STL.

## Languages

English

## Cases

### Kipsigis and Talai peoples of Kericho County

Ongoing

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC Aidan Ellis

Advising the Kipsigis and Talai peoples in relation to historic human rights abuses in Kericho County, Kenya including appearing as international counsel before the Kenyan National Land Commission and submitting a dossier to the UN Human Rights Council and Special Procedures.

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### Baghdadi Mahmoudi

From 2012 to present

Barristers involved: Pierre-Olivier Sur Karim A. A. Khan QC

Pierre-Olivier Sur is one of the international counsel for Baghdadi Mahmoudi, the former Prime Minister of Libya during the Government of Colonel Gaddafi, who is charged with crimes against humanity and corruption in the courts of Libya, following extradition from Tunisia. He is representing the client alongside Karim Khan QC, Libyan and Tunisian lawyers.

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### Prosecutor v Jadranko Prlic and Others

**IT-04-74**

2014 - 2017

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC Aidan Ellis

Representing Bruno Stojić, the former Head of the Defence Department of the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosna in appeal proceedings.

Stojić was convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity relating to crimes committed in Bosnia in 1993.

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## **Prosecutor v Al-Jadeed TV and Karma Khayat, Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL)**

2014-2016

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC Rodney Dixon QC Dato Shyamala Alagendra  
Karim Khan QC, Rodney Dixon QC and Dato' Shyamala Alagendra represented TV station and journalist in trial at STL on allegations of witness interference. This is the first trial before an international court in which a corporate entity has faced charges. TV station and journalist has been acquitted of all counts.

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## **In the Case Against Al Jadeed [Co.] S.A.L./ New T.V. S.A.L. (N.T.V.) & Karma Mohamed Tahsin Al Khayat**

**STL, In the Case Against Al Jadeed [Co.] S.A.L./ New T.V. S.A.L. (N.T.V.) & Karma Mohamed Tahsin Al Khayat, STL-14-05**

18/09/2015 to present

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Contempt of court proceedings before the STL against a Lebanese journalist and the media company she works for. This case represents the first time that a corporation has been charged before an international criminal or hybrid court. Al Jadeed was acquitted on both counts and Ms. Khayat acquitted on one count and convicted of the lesser count (sentenced to a 10,000 Euro fine). The Prosecution has appealed the three acquittals and the Defence the one conviction.

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## **Maritime delimitation in the Indian Ocean (Somalia v. Kenya)**

**ICJ, Maritime delimitation in the Indian Ocean (Somalia v. Kenya)**

28/08/2014 to present

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Representing the Government of Kenya against Somalia's application to the ICJ requesting the Court delimit the boundary of Somalia and Kenya's continental shelf. Kenya has challenged the Court's jurisdiction to hear this matter.

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## **Prosecutor v. Saleh Mohammed Jerbo Jamus**

**ICC, Prosecutor v. Saleh Mohammed Jerbo Jamus, ICC-02/05-03/09**

04/10/2013

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Lead Counsel, 2010 - 2013, for Saleh Mohammed Jerbo Jamus, third rebel leader charged (war crimes) by the ICC in relation to the Darfur Situation. Arranged client's voluntary initial appearance before the Court. Represented client at ICC's first 'fast track' confirmation hearing (joint proceedings with Mr. Banda) in which client did not contest Prosecution's case for purposes of confirmation. Proceedings terminated following client's death in the field.

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## **Prosecutor v. Prlic et al.**

**ICTY, Prosecutor v. Prlic et al., IT-04-74**

29/05/2013 to present

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Co-counsel for Bruno Stojic, former Head of Defence Departments, Croatian community of Herceg-Bosna. Charged with War crimes and Crimes against humanity. Appeal pending.

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## **Prosecutor v. Francis Kirimi Muthaura et al.**

**ICC, Prosecutor v. Francis Kirimi Muthaura et al., ICC-01/09-02/11**

18/03/2013

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Lead Counsel, 2011 – 2013, representing Ambassador Francis Kirimi Muthaura, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary, against ICC crimes against humanity allegations arising from violence following Kenya's 2007 national elections. First ICC case in which the Prosecution requested permission to withdraw charges against an accused, which followed from a Defence application to vacate the confirmation of charges decision on basis of newly disclosed information that the evidence of the core witness against client was wholly unreliable.

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### **Arben Krasniqui et al.**

**EULEX, Arben Krasniqui et al., P766/12**

17/09/2013 to present

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Lead Counsel, 2010 – 2013, representing Fatmir Limaj in relation to charges of war crimes allegedly committed in Kosovo in 1999 before the EULEX (hybrid) court system in a trial comprising UK, American and Kosovan judges. At the end of this trial, Fatmir Limaj was acquitted on all counts of war crimes. The Supreme Court of Kosovo ordered a re-trial, which also ended in a full acquittal on all charges.

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### **Baghdadi A-Mahmoudi**

01/01/2013 to present

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Karim Khan QC, International counsel, 2013 – present, representing Dr. Baghdadi A-Mahmoudi, Former Prime Minister of Libya during the Government of Col. Gadaffi, charged with crimes against humanity and corruption in the courts of Libya following extradition from Tunisia. Represent client along with Libyan and Tunisian and Malaysian counsel.

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### **Prosecutor v Kaing Geuk Eav, alias Duch**

**ECCC, Prosecutor v Kaing Geuk Eav, alias Duch, 001/18-07-2007-ECCC**

03/02/2012

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Lead counsel, 2008-2009, for the largest group of Civil Parties (victims) in the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) arising out of the Khmer Rouge Period. Case file number 1 Prosecutor v Kaing Geuk Eav, alias Duch.

Assembled a team including co-counsel from Switzerland, USA and Cambodia. Karim led this team and directed the case and made submissions in court including examination of the accused. Case undertaken pro bono (The Documentation Centre of Cambodia (DCCAM) acted as intermediary). Karim obtained funding from the British embassy in Phnom Penh to assist his Cambodian national co-counsel.

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### **Prosecutor v. Florence Hartmann**

**ICTY, Prosecutor v. Florence Hartmann, IT-02-54-R77.5**

19/07/2011

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Lead counsel, 2009-2010, for Florence Hartmann. Hartmann was the ICTY spokesperson for six years and the contempt of court trial and appeal related to her book "Paix et Chastisement".

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### **Prosecutor v. William Samoei Ruto et al.**

**ICC, Prosecutor v. William Samoei Ruto et al., ICC-01/09-01/11**

08/03/2011 to present

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Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Lead Counsel representing H.E. Deputy President of Kenya Mr. William S. Ruto against ICC crimes against humanity allegations arising from violence following Kenya's 2007 national elections.

Numerous first instance legal issues litigated through appellate level, including the excusal of the Deputy President from attending trial hearings on the basis of his official duties, and the authority of the ICC to issue enforceable summonses to appear. The Prosecution case has ended. This is the first case before the ICC in which a 'no case to answer' motion has been submitted (decision pending).

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### **Prosecutor v. Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain**

**ICC, Prosecutor v. Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain, ICC-02/05-03/09**

17/06/2010 to present

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Second rebel leader charged (war crimes) by the ICC in relation to the Darfur Situation.

Arranged client's voluntary initial appearance before the Court. Represented client at ICC's first 'fast track' confirmation hearing in which client did not contest Prosecution's case for purposes of confirmation. Trial date vacated and arrest warrant issued (2-1 decision) against client (upheld on appeal) following Sudanese's government's refusal to abide by binding court order to provide all necessary assistance to facilitate client's appearance.

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### **Prosecutor v Banda and Jerbo**

**ICC-02/05-03/09**

2010-2016

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC Aidan Ellis

Represented two rebel leaders who were accused of war crimes in the situation in Darfur.

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### **Prosecutor v. Bahar Idris Abu Garda**

**ICC, Prosecutor v Bahar Idris Abu Garda, ICC-02/05-02/09**

08/02/2010

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Lead Counsel, 2009 - 2010, representing Bahar Idris Abu Garda, the first rebel leader charged by the ICC (war crimes) in relation to the Darfur conflict (Sudan situation). Missions to Egypt, Ethiopia and Chad. Responsible for liaising with the client and arranging his voluntary surrender to the court. Led team including legal assistants and case manager and investigators. Examined and cross-examined key witnesses at contested confirmation hearing. This was the first case where the judges of the ICC declined to confirm any charges preferred by the Prosecution. Prosecution application for leave to appeal dismissed.

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### **Prosecutor v. Astrit Haraqija et al.**

**ICTY, Prosecutor v. Astrit Haraqija et al., IT-04-84-R77.4**

23/07/2009

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Lead counsel, 2008 -2009, for Astrit Haraqija, Kosovo Minister of Culture. First Minister charged with contempt of court before the ICTY. Led team, directed investigations and case at trial and appeal. Haraqija acquitted on all counts on appeal.

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### **Prosecutor v. Jean Pierre Bemba Gombo**

**ICC, Prosecutor v. Jean Pierre Bemba Gombo, ICC-01/05 -01/08**

15/06/2009

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Co-Lead counsel, 2008-2009, for Jean Pierre Bemba Gombo, Former Vice President of the Democratic Republic of Congo for crimes allegedly committed in the Central African Republic. Represented Mr. Bemba in confirmation hearing and other applications, including legal submissions at the confirmation hearing (Article 25 charges dismissed, Article 28 preferred after court requests additional submission).

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### **Prosecutor v. Limaj et al.**

**ICTY, Prosecutor v. Limaj et al., IT-03-66**

27/09/2007

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Lead Counsel and then Co-counsel (led by Michael Mansfield QC), representing Fatmir Limaj, the first Kosovo Liberation Army commander accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Oversaw and directed investigations along with latterly appointed Lead Counsel and examined and cross-examined numerous witnesses, drafted motions, responses and briefs. Limaj acquitted on all counts. Prosecution appeal dismissed after full hearing.

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### **Prosecutor vs. Charles Ghankay Taylor**

**SCSL, Prosecutor v. Charles Ghankay Taylor, SCSL-03-01**

03/04/2006

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Instructed as Lead Counsel to Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of Liberia, before the SCSL (April 2006 – June 2007). In charge of a team of investigators, co-counsel and legal assistants with offices in Monrovia, Freetown and The Hague. Supervised and directed investigations, numerous motions and appeals drafted and advocacy in court in Freetown and The Hague.

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### **Prosecutor v. Sefer Halilović**

**ICTY, Prosecutor v. Sefer Halilović, IT-01-48**

25.03.2004

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Appointed by ICTY Registrar as Independent Counsel to General Sefer Halilovic, Chief of Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces. Appeal to ICTY President Meron allowed.

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### **Prosecutor v. Alex Brima**

**SCSL, Prosecutor v. Alex Brima, SCSL-04-16**

28/01/2004

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Co-counsel for Alex Brima before the SCSL (2004), charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity.

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### **Liberia v. Sierra Leone**

**ICJ, Liberia v. Sierra Leone**

04/08/2003

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Drafted memorial before the International Court of Justice in case Liberia v. Sierra Leone with regard to head of state immunity.

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### **Prosecutor v. Cancio Lopes de Carvalho et al.**

**SPSC, Prosecutor v. Cancio Lopes de Carvalho et al., Case No. 06**

01/01/2001

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

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Appointed, in 2001, by the United Nations Transitional Authority for East Timor (UNTAET) as Defence Counsel for Cancio Lopez de Carvalho, the leader of the Mahidi militia (described in the media as the “Mladic of East Timor”). Lopez de Carvalho was charged with crimes against international humanitarian and human rights law allegedly committed in East Timor during 1999. Admitted to practice in the courts of East Timor. Missions undertaken to Dili, East Timor and Kupang, West Timor, Indonesia.

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## **Publications**

### **Archbold International Criminal Courts**

31/08/2018

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC Aidan Ellis

Editorial assistant working on the latest edition of this prestigious practitioner text.

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### **International Criminal Law Reports (ICLR)**

18/02/2016

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Co-Editor of compendium of national and international decisions relevant to the field of international criminal law. Provides text of decisions and commentary thereon. Published by Cameron May.

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### **Human Rights Practice**

18/02/2016

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Contributor since 2002 to this Sweet & Maxwell published in-depth compendium of articles focused on the interpretation and application of the 1998 Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights. Published by Sweet & Maxwell.

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### **Sitting on Evidence? : Systemic Failings in the ICC Disclosure Regime - Time for Reform**

18/12/2015

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC Dr. Caroline Buisman

Chapter in “ The law and practice of the International Criminal Court.” (Oxford University Press. Edited by Professor Carsten Stahn).

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### **An Unbreakable Thread? The Presumption of Innocence in International Law**

18/12/2015

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC Dato’ Shyamala Alagendra

Chapter published in book “Promoting Accountability Under International Law for Gross Human Rights Violations in Africa”, Essays in Honour of Prosecutor Hassan Jallow. Published in Brill / Nijhoff.

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### **Assistance and Oversight Without Interference: An Analysis and Critique of Defence Systems before the International and Hybrid Criminal Courts and Tribunals**

18/12/2015

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Article published as part of a compendium on the Legacy of the ICTR. Provides an overview and critical analysis of the development of the defence systems before all the international and internationalised criminal courts and tribunals.

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### **Commentary on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court: Observers’ Notes, Article by Article**

18/12/2015

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Contributor to this third edition (as well as contributor to first and second editions) of the most relied upon scholarly reference for the interpretation and application of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. (Published by C.H. Beck, Hart Nomos)

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Edited by Professor Kai Ambos and Professor Otto Triffterer.

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## **Archbold International, Sweet & Maxwell, 4th Edition, 2015**

31/01/2015

Authors: Rodney Dixon QC Karim A. A. Khan QC

Leading text on law and procedure before all international criminal courts.

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## **The Presumption of Innocence at International and Hybrid Criminal Tribunals and Courts**

18/12/2014

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC Dato' Shyamala Alagendra and Anand A. Shah

Article published in Sri Lankan Law College Journal special edition authored by international criminal law practitioners and scholars.

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## **Defensive Practices: Representing Clients Before the International Criminal Court**

18/12/2014

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC Anand A. Shah

Article published in Duke University (USA) Law School journal 76 Law and Contemporary Problems 191-233 (2014).

You can view the publication at <http://scholarship.law.duke.edu/lcp/vol76/iss3/6/>

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## **The Lawyer as Builder: Constructing the Institutions of International Justice and the Role of Defence and Victims Counsel**

18/12/2012

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC

International Bar Association conference paper.

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## **Principles of Evidence in International Criminal Law (Oxford University Press)**

18/12/2010

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC Dr. Caroline Buisman and Christopher Gosnell

Co-Editor and contributing author to book authored by international criminal law practitioners on core principles and issues governing or relevant to the collection, admissibility and evaluation of evidence before international criminal tribunals and courts.

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## **Victim Participation Before the ECCC (working paper)**

18/02/2010

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Working paper published as part of Oxford Transitional Justice Research - Working Papers Series.

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## **Enlargement and human rights law, norms and realities**

18/12/2007

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC Anna Kotzeva

Article published in Security Dimension to EU enlargement. Published by Manchester University Press, Shepherd and Brown ed.

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## **Prawa Czlowieka, Bilingual (Polish / English) Year book on Human Rights**

18/02/2000

Authors: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Member of Board of Editors of this annual yearbook covering human rights law developments.

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## News

### **Karim A.A. Khan QC Sworn in as Chief Prosecutor at The ICC**

16/06/2021

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

The ceremony can be viewed via The ICC's Facebook page found [here](#)



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### **Karim Khan QC Elected Chief Prosecutor at ICC**

15/02/2021

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Karim will begin his 9 year term at the court in The Hague in June.

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### **Karim A. A. Khan QC appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations, H.E. Antonio Guterres, as Special Adviser and Head of the Investigative Team supporting efforts to prosecute members of ISIL / Da'esh.**

01/06/2018

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

The Special Advisor and Head of the Investigative Team will also “promote throughout the world, accountability for acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide committed by ISIL (Da’esh), and work with survivors, in a manner consistent with relevant national laws, to ensure their interests in achieving accountability for ISIL (Da’esh) are fully recognized.” The Special Advisor and Head of the Investigative team was established with the unanimous approval of the UN Security Council in Resolution 2379/2017.

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### **Karim A. A. Khan QC admitted as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitration**

27/04/2018

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

TGC is delighted to announce that Karim Khan QC, FCIArb, FSIArb, has been admitted as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitration effective 26 April 2018.

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### **Karim A. A. Khan QC appointed a Recorder**

22/03/2018

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Temple Garden Chambers is delighted to announce that on the advice of the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales Karim A. A. Khan QC has been appointed a Recorder. The appointment will take effect from 4 April 2018.

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### **Karim A. A. Khan QC admitted as a Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators**

20/03/2018

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

TGC is delighted to announce that Karim A. A. Khan QC (FSIArb) has been admitted as a Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators effective immediately.



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## **Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo acquitted of all charges in EULEX corruption case**

27/11/2017

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC Dato Shyamala Alagendra

Deputy PM Limaj was unanimously acquitted by a bench of EULEX judges of all counts of corruption, organized crimes, misuse of public office and related financial offences relating to his previous tenure as Minister of Transport in Kosovo. EULEX is the European rule of law mission in Kosovo. The bench comprised two EULEX judges, Presiding Judge Maria Tuma of Sweden and Judge Jennifer Seel of Germany along with Judge Makolli, Judge of the Republic of Kosovo. The corruption investigation commenced in 2009 and the trial lasted two years ago.

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## **Karim A. A. Khan QC awarded the 2017 “Criminal Lawyer of the Year” award by the Society of Asian Lawyers (SAL)**

30/10/2017

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

The independent judging panel comprised HHJ Jeffrey Pegden QC, DJ Sunita Mason CBE and HHJ Abbas Mithani QC.

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## **International Criminal Court Bar Association**

04/07/2017

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC Rodney Dixon QC Dato Shyamala Alagendra

Dato Shyamala Alagendra was also elected to the Executive Council and the Victims Committee and Rodney Dixon QC to the Executive Committee.

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## **Karim Khan QC appears before Military Tribunal in Cameroon defending a human rights lawyer charged with offences carrying the death penalty**

27/04/2017

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

Dr. Felix Agbor Bala possess a doctorate of laws, a Masters in law (cum Laude) from the University of Brussels as well as a LLM (cum laude) awarded by the University of Notre Dame in the USA. He is also a recipient of the Diploma from The Hague Academy of International law and holds a diploma in conflict prevention from Leipzig University, Germany. Dr Felix Agbor Bala previously worked as a legal officer to the Trial Chamber of the SCSL in Freetown, as a human rights legal officer to the UN in Afghanistan and to the UN in the Congo. He is the head of the Anglophone Consortium of lawyers and teachers in Cameroon which seeks to ensure the rights of the Anglophone minority community. He has been charged with terrorism offences, seeking secession and other capital offences, in proceedings which have been criticised internationally as failing to comply with international human rights standards.

The Bar Human Rights Committee, The Law Society of England and Wales and the American Bar Association all sent observers to the hearing.

You can view the publication at

<http://www.cameroonintelligencereport.com/southern-cameroots-again-military-tribunal-adjourns-agbor-balla-fontem-neba-trial/>

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## **Karim Khan QC and Aidan Ellis are currently representing Bruno Stojic before the Appeals Chamber of the ICTY**

20/03/2017

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC Aidan Ellis

Bruno Stojic was the Head of the Defence Department of the Croatian Community of Herceg Bosna. He is appealing against his conviction for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Bosnia in 1993. The case is expected to be the last Appeal Hearing heard by the ICTY before its closure at the end of 2017.

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## **Karim A. A. Khan QC appointed lead counsel to represent Saif-ul-Islam Gadaffi before the ICC**

29/06/2016

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC

A press conference announcing the new appointment was held at the Hilton Hotel in The Hague on Monday 27th June 2016. Joining Karim, as counsel, will be Dato' Shyamala Alagendra of the Bar of Malaysia as well as lawyers from France and Khaled Zayed from Libya. This is the first time Saif ul Islam Gadaffi has appointed his own lawyers to represent him before the Court.

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## **Case against Deputy President of Kenya dismissed**

14/04/2016

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC Dato Shyamala Alagendra

On 5 April 2016, by majority, judges of the ICC held that the no reasonable Trial Chamber could convict H. E. William Ruto of charges alleging crimes against humanity arising out of the 2007-2008 post election violence in Kenya. This is the first time a prosecution case has fallen at the "half time" stage in any international or hybrid court since Nuremberg. The Majority noted numerous evidential gaps in the prosecution's case and that several key prosecution witness had been shown to be incapable of belief. Lead counsel for H. E. William Ruto was Karim A. A. Khan QC who led a team of international counsel, including Dato Shyamala Alagendra.

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## **Appeals Panel of the Special Tribunal of Lebanon (Hague) dismisses 22 prosecution grounds of appeals**

08/03/2016

Barristers involved: Karim A. A. Khan QC Rodney Dixon QC Dato Shyamala Alagendra

In addition to upholding the acquittals on all counts, the Appeals Panel upheld the acquittal of Karma Khayat, Director of AL Jadeed TV on one count of contempt and overturned her conviction on one count. The result, complete acquittals on all counts, represents the first completed case before the STL. Al Jadeed Television company and Ms. Karma Khayat directly instructed Karim Khan QC who was assisted by Mr. Rodney Dixon QC and Dato' Shyamala Alagendra.